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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

HR70-14

TELETYPE INFORMATION REPORT

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CLASSIFICATION S-E-C-R-E-T		DISSEMINATION CONTROLS	
DATE DISTR. 13 May 1958		PRECEDENCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ROUTINE	
COUNTRY USSR	PLACE ACQUIRED USSR		
SUBJECT Composition of the Soviet Combined Arms Army <i>rifle, tank, artillery, engineer, chemical warfare, reconnaissance divisions, including rocket brigade, antiaircraft & tank brigade; description of rocket & missile AA guns.</i>			
DATE OF INFORMATION Current		REFERENCES	
APPRAISAL OF CONTENT (TENTATIVE) 3			
SOURCE (EVALUATION DEFINITIVE) Usually reliable Soviet source			

1. The Soviet combined arms army may consist of from three to five motorized rifle divisions, one to three tank divisions, the army artillery, and the usual service units, such as various engineer pontoon units, a battalion of chemical warfare service, reconnaissance battalions, and special radar reconnaissance companies. This is the typical composition of a combined arms (obshechevoyskovaya) army; however, variations may be encountered because of particular local circumstances. This organization was adopted in 1956, when the corps was discarded.

2. The army artillery is organic to the combined arms army and is a part of the army's table of organization. This artillery is not to be confused with attached or reinforcing artillery (artilleriya usileniya). It is also distinct from the divisional artillery which is already included in the tables of organization of the motorized rifle and tank divisions.

3. The army artillery of the combined arms army is composed of an artillery division, a rocket brigade or division, an antiaircraft division, and a tank destroyer

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brigade (1strebittelno-protivotankovaya brigada).

4. The artillery division is composed of the following:

- a. 122-mm gun brigade, consisting of three battalions of 18 guns (pushka) each.
- b. 152-mm gun howitzer (pushka gaubitsa) brigade, consisting of three battalions of 18 guns each. The 152-mm gun howitzer is a new type with a range of up to 17 km.
- c. 130-mm gun brigade, consisting of three battalions of 18 guns (pushka) each.

5. The rocket brigade (brigada reaktivnogo oruzhiya or reaktivnaya brigada) or division () Comment: Source believes that this unit is a brigade but he allows for the possibility that it may be a division) consists of the following:

- a. Two or three battalions of BM-24 rocket launchers with 18 launchers per battalion. The BM-24 is a further development of the BM-8. The range of the BM-24 is 6.5 km and the weight of the projectile is 60 kg. The rockets are fired in salvo. The weapon resembles a katyusha and can fire conventional rockets and rockets equipped with atomic warheads. () Comment: Source believes that there are 12 launching tubes per launcher.)

- b. One or possibly two battalions of BMD-20 (boyevaya mashina dalnego deystviya) consisting of 18 rocket launchers. The BMD-20 has four missiles which are mounted two above and two below in net- or basket-like launchers. The weight of the projectile is 120 kg and the range is up to 30 km.

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- c. One battalion of unguided rocket missiles (NRS - neupravyayemyy reaktivnyy snaryad) consisting of 12 launchers. The weight of the NRS missile is 375 kg and the range is calculated at 50 km, although informant commented that persons who have tested the missile said that it can attain a range of 70 km. The NRS weapon can fire conventional missiles or missiles with atomic warheads.

6. The antiaircraft division, which was described by informant as being very weak, consists of the following:

- a. Three battalions of 100-mm AA guns (zenitnaya pushka). The 100-mm AA gun has a ceiling of 21 km, which informant described as being "nothing by today's standards."
- b. One or two battalions of "old style" 57-mm automatic AA guns (avtomaticheskaya zenitnaya pushka).

7. The tank destroyer brigade (istrebitelno-protivotankovaya brigada) consists of the following:

- a. Three battalions of 89-mm antitank guns (protivotankovaya pushka).
- b. One or two battalions of 100-mm antitank guns (protivotankovaya pushka).

[] Comment: Source believes that informant said that both of these antitank guns can pierce 100-mm armor. Informant did not state the range but source assumes that it is 1,000 m.)

[] Comment: Evaluation requested of Army.

End of Message

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